



## H.R. 2339 – PRODUCED WATER UTILIZATION ACT OF 2007

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 2339 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Ralph Hall (R-TX) on May 16, 2007. The House Committee on Science and Technology agreed to the bill, as amended, by voice vote on July 17, 2008.

H.R. 2339 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 30, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.R. 2339 directs the Secretary of Energy, in coordination with the Secretary of the Interior and the Environmental Protection Agency, to carry out research programs aimed at developing technologies that would maximize the utilization and quality of water brought to the surface from underground sources as part of the process of exploration process for energy sources that are located underground. These projects are aimed at improving the desalinization and purity of these waters as well as for the reinjection of produced water into subsurface geological formations to increase energy production.

Additionally, the Secretary may enter into an agreement with an experienced entity to manage the research and administration of these water use programs. The Secretary is also to carry out research and development activities through the appropriate National Laboratory, supporting research efforts under the bill.

The legislation authorizes \$20 million for each of fiscal years 2009-2013, with 25 percent for research at the National Laboratory and the remainder for all other programs under H.R. 2339.

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### BACKGROUND

Alternate water sources and recycling programs that are utilized in the U.S. today include municipal supplied reclaimed water that is treated and recycled for non-potable uses. Additionally, grey water treatment programs typically remove suspended solids from water with varying degrees of subsequent treatment depending on its use (non-potable uses such as car washes and laundromats).

According to the EPA, only one percent of the water on the planet is available for human consumption. Today, Americans use an average of 100 gallons of water per person every day. At least 36 states are anticipating local, regional, or statewide water shortages by 2013. [EPA website](#)

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### COST

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that “implementing H.R. 2339 would cost \$71 million over the 2009-2013 period, with additional spending occurring in later years.”

[Full CBO cost estimate for H.R. 2339](#)

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### STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Justin Hanson at 6-2302.